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cc:
Subject: Announcement of Updated MOBILE6.2

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Transportation and Air Quality
November 12, 2002

Announcement of WEB Posting of Updated MOBILE6.2

EPA has released an updated version of its MOBILE6 model -- MOBILE6.2 -- which includes changes to its abilities to estimate emissions of particulate matter (PM) and air toxics from highway vehicles. These materials are available on the EPA MOBILE6 website: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/m6.htm>.

These changes incorporated into MOBILE6.2 respond to comments received on the draft version of MOBILE6.1 and MOBILE6.2 publicly released in May 2002. Some functional problems with the previous version have also been corrected.

MOBILE6.2 also includes, in draft form, a simple method for estimating CO2 emissions. EPA invites comments on this draft capability and asks that they be submitted to mobile@epa.gov by February 1, 2003.

As you know, MOBILE6 is EPA's official model for estimating highway vehicle emissions of hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), and oxides of nitrogen (NOx). MOBILE6 was released as a final model in January 2002. The addition of PM and toxics capabilities to MOBILE6 do not change the MOBILE6 results for HC, CO, and NOx. MOBILE6.2 is the recommended and approved version of MOBILE for estimating HC, CO, and NOx emissions (please note that MOBILE6.0 is also acceptable for official use but for those undertaking new modeling work at this time, MOBILE6.2 should be used). However, this is not the case for particulate matter and toxics estimates. EPA is preparing technical and policy guidance on particulate matter and toxics, and until that guidance is completed the model is not approved for official use for these pollutants. While EPA has no plans to make further changes to the model prior to official release of MOBILE6.2 for particulate matter and air toxics, that could change.

You can download this most recent version of MOBILE6 from the MOBILE6 web site: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/m6.htm>. The materials are in a compressed "zip" file that can be opened with standard software such as WinZip. The materials include a "read me" file with installation instructions, an executable for the combined models, source code, input files, a user guide, and a Question and Answer document that provides additional information on the release. Technical reports also are available for downloading.

Comments and questions on the new draft CO2 estimation functionality of this combined model should be sent by email to mobile@epa.gov. Please make sure to include your name and organizational affiliation.

We look forward to working with you to continue improving our modeling tools.

Sincerely,

Gene Tierney
Director, Air Quality Modeling Center
Assessment and Standards Division
Office of Transportation and Air Quality
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency